

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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TAGS: TGEN IR

SUBJ: REVISING US/IRAN SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 22083

1. SCIATT, ON INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, CALLED ON SHOJAIL, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 6 AND INDICATED U.S.

WILLINGNESS TO RENEW DISCUSSIONS ON US/IRAN SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

2. SCIATT STATED U.S. ALSO INTERESTED IN DESERT ECOLOGY BUT WOULD FIRST LIKE GOI REACTION TO SOME THOUGHTS ON IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT, MOST PARTICULARLY BY HAVING EACH COUNTRY'S EXECUTIVE AGENT ASSUME A MORE RESPONSIBLE AND ACTIVE ROLE. SPECIFICALLY;-(A) EXECUTIVE AGENTS SHOULD MEET AND REVIEW ACTIVITIES EACH YEAR, ISSUE A REPORT ON THESE ACTIVITIES, AND AGREE ON ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM. TOWARD CLOSE OF AGREEMENT PERIOD, EXECUTIVE AGENTS SHOULD RECOMMEND CONTINUATION OR MODIFICATION. IN LIEU OF SUCH RECOMMENDATION THE AGREEMENT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY LAPSE. (B) EXECUTIVE AGENTS SHOULD DEVELOP INTERNAL GUIDELINES FOR DISCHARGING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. THESE MITH INCLUDE GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVE PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT, FOR LIAISON WITH EACH OTHER, AND FOR EXCHANGING INFORMATION. (C) EXECUTIVE AGENTS SHOULD EACH MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE AVAILABLE OR SEEK ACCESS TO A REASONABLE CONTINUING FUNDING LEVEL. FUNDS WOULD PREFERABLY

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BE SET ASIDE SPECIFICALLY IN THE BUDGETS OF EACH COUNTRY AND

MIGHT BE IN THE \$15,000 - \$25,000 RANGE. EACH COUNTRY SHOULD, OF COURSE, AGREE GENERALLY TO SUPPORT ITS OWN ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AGREEMENT.

3. INITIAL REACTION OF SHOJAI TO ABOVE WAS FAVORABLE, AND HE PROMISED TO REPLY SOON AFTER CONSULTATION WITHIN MINISTRY.

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED ELICITED FOLLOWING RELEVANT INFORMATION: (A) FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN HAS EARMARKED OVER \$30,000,000 FOR RESEARCH, AND IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS THIS IS LIKELY TO BE INCREASED. (B) MINISTRY IS LOOKING TO NEEDS OF COUNTRY TEN YEARS HENCE AND FEELS STUDIES OF DESERT ECOLOGY ARE BASIC TO FUTURE PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF IRAN. INITIALLY IT FORESEES EMPHASIS ON NATURAL SCIENCES IN ITS ARID LANDS STUDIES, BUT ULTIMATELY AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT SHOULD DEVELOP INVOLVING THE INTERACTION OF MAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT. IN ANY CASE, APPLIED, RATHER THAN THEORETICAL, STUDIES ARE WANTED. (C) NO CONFLICT WITH THE CENTO SCIENCE PROGRAM IS ANTICIPATED. (D) THIRD COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH PROJECTS WOULD BE WELCOMED, IF APPROPRIATE.

5. WHEN SHOJAI LEARNED THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION WOULD PROBABLY ACT AS EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR U.S. HE REQUESTED INFORMATION ON IT. SCIATT WILL SUPPLY 1972 NSF ANNUAL REPORT AT NEXT MEETING. OPENING WAS SEIZED TO REQUEST LITERATURE ON MINISTRY'S SUPPORT OF RESEARCH IN IRAN, WHICH SHOJAI ALSO AGREED TO PROVIDE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: AS ASSENT TO STRENGTHENING OF ROLE OF EXECUTIVE AGENTS IS ANTICIPATED, SCI REQUESTED TO CHECK WITH NSF REGARDING ITS WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME EXECUTIVE AGENT DUTIES IN A NEW AGREEMENT. ALSO SCI THOUGHTS ON FORMAT OF AGREEMENT AND POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION WOULD BE WELCOMED.
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